

**Senate File 460 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 460  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1174)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the commercial and noncommercial harvest of  
2 turtles, including effective date provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.67, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2017,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
4 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
5 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the  
6 noncommercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state  
7 pursuant to section 483A.28. Seasons established pursuant to  
8 this subsection shall not apply to the noncommercial harvest of  
9 snapping turtles.

10 b. (1) The annual season for the noncommercial harvest of  
11 turtles shall begin on July 15 and end on May 15.

12 (2) Beginning on July 15, 2017, the following limits on the  
13 noncommercial harvest of turtles are applicable:

14 (a) Daily catch limit:

15 (i) Four common snapping turtles.

16 (ii) One spiny or smooth softshell turtle.

17 (iii) One painted turtle.

18 (b) A person with a valid fishing license issued pursuant to  
19 chapter 483A is entitled to take and possess a maximum amount  
20 of turtles as provided in section 483A.28.

21 (3) This paragraph "b" is repealed effective July 1, 2021.

22 3. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
23 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
24 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the  
25 commercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state.

26 b. (1) The annual season for the commercial harvest of  
27 turtles shall begin on July 15 and end on May 15.

28 (2) Beginning on July 15, 2017, the following limits on the  
29 commercial harvest of turtles are applicable:

30 (a) Daily catch limit:

31 (i) Ten common snapping turtles.

32 (ii) Ten spiny and smooth softshell turtles, in aggregate.

33 (iii) Five painted turtles.

34 (b) Possession limit:

35 (i) Thirty common snapping turtles.



1 effective July 1, 2021.

2 The bill provides that, beginning on the effective date of  
3 the bill, a person shall not be issued or allowed to renew a  
4 commercial turtle harvester license unless the person held such  
5 a license at any time during the period beginning on January  
6 1, 2015, and ending on the effective date of the bill. This  
7 provision is repealed effective July 1, 2021.

8 The bill rescinds amendments to specified rules relating  
9 to harvesting commercial and noncommercial turtles that were  
10 published in the Iowa administrative code on February 15, 2017,  
11 and directs the Iowa administrative code editor to restore the  
12 language of the Iowa administrative code to the language that  
13 existed on February 14, 2017.

14 The bill is effective upon enactment.